

More than 261 million acres throughout the western United States and Alaska are managed by the Bureau of Land Management. Managing fire is a critical part of stewardship of natural resources on these public lands.



Thriving, productive habitat is the most important resource for wildlife in all its varied forms. Long-term fire management planning

and implementation in a sustained effort will be required to restore and maintain healthy ecosystems and wildlife habitat.



For more information, visit these web pages.

<http://www.fire.blm.gov>  
<http://www.blm.gov>  
<http://www.nifc.gov>  
<http://www.fireplan.gov>

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3833 S. Development Ave.  
Boise, Idaho 83705  
208-387-5512

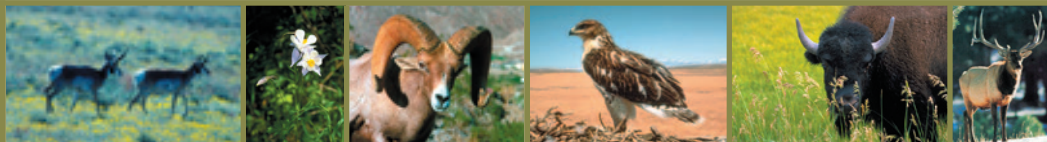
BLM-FA-GI-05-001-9217



# Fire



And  
**Healthy Habitat**





# IT'S ABOUT THE LAND

Millions of acres in the western United States are open areas managed by the Bureau of Land Management. Among its many uses, this land provides food, cover, and necessary space for wildlife that need healthy habitat.

For thousands of years, fire played a natural and vital role on these lands. It was as important to healthy, functioning ecosystems as climate, land forms, and vegetation. Today, it's important to manage fire to retain those benefits.

Managing fire means working to maintain fire's natural and beneficial role, and to use it at the right place and the right time. This includes prescribed fire deliberately set under controlled conditions. Sometimes, it can include allowing a naturally occurring wildfire to run its course.

Unwanted fire can destroy healthy habitat during hot, dry conditions and allow the spread of invasive species. At times, rapid and aggressive suppression is still vital to preserve healthy habitat.



Throughout history, a cycle of periodic fire helped rejuvenate and maintain healthy landscapes, including diverse species of grasses, brush, and trees that supported an equally diverse population of wildlife.



In more recent times, invasive weeds and other vegetation have threatened that diversity in some areas. In other areas, suppressing fires has allowed a buildup of fuel that can lead to more severe fires and further harm habitat.

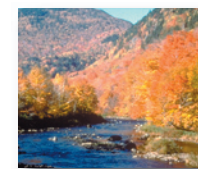


These conditions create the need to carefully manage fire; to suppress it where necessary to prevent invasive species from turning diverse vegetation into a monoculture that does not support wildlife, and to use it where needed to remove hazardous buildups of fuel and retain healthy new growth.



Fire is an important aspect of the renewal cycle for riparian areas along streams and serves to help maintain healthy habitat for fish and aquatic plants.

## IT'S ABOUT PARTNERSHIPS



Managing fire, the land, and habitat is a complex effort. No single agency or group is able to fully implement all the needed work to make progress in maintaining and restoring healthy habitat. It takes many people working cooperatively in public and private partnerships to do the job.

Federal, state and local agencies are working together to implement projects with the goal of improved habitat. Private organizations such as the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Mule Deer Foundation, state and local private groups and many others have multiplied their strength through joint efforts and funding for habitat projects throughout the West.



Native vegetation such as sagebrush and native grass are vital to small species such as mice, voles, and rabbits, which in nature's cycle leads to healthy populations of birds of prey.